

CAMP PERROT

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

1952

MONTREAL Y.M.C.A.

S. F. Kneeland,
Chairman,
E. Hammond,
Chairman, Perrot Committee,
D. Cochrane,
Director.

To the Boys' Camp Committee,
Montreal Y.M.C.A.

Gentlemen:

The summer of 1952 was a most successful season at Camp Perrot. Even with an almost complete change of staff and counsellors, the camp operated smoothly, and taking into consideration almost perfect camping weather, and an excellent and qualified staff, Camp Perrot enjoyed a perfect summer.

HIGHLIGHTS

The season's highlight was the Montreal Foremen's Club's generous gift of a new set of wharves, which provided the camp with an enclosed swimming area. This added greatly to the safety of the camp's swimming program. Also, the Foremen gave five new beautiful boats.

The Laddie Millen Memorial Handicraft Workshop was in full operation this year, much to the pleasure of all concerned. At the end of the season Mr. J. Ernest Millen presented a skilfully hand carved plaque to the workshop, in memory of his late son. This plaque was carved by Major Stuart Forbes, and is an inspiration to all craftsmen.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Foreman's Club of Montreal, the Lachine Kinsmen's Club, and the Montreal Westward Rotary Club again sent needy boys to the camp.

PROGRAM

Mr. Robert Kneeland, Craft Director, ensured the success of the Handicraft Workshop by spending some forty hours preparing projects before camp opened. This procedure is almost essential in a camp where the average stay is only two weeks.

Square knotting and braiding, a new craft to Camp Perrot, proved very popular with the boys. Keen interest was also shown in archery, fishing, boating, nature lore and a special group for non-swimmers. There is nothing more rewarding than sending home a camper who has been taught to swim in two weeks. There were cases of boys who went from non-swimmers to the advanced group in that short period.

TRIPPING

The keeness shown by campers for canoe trips was very gratifying. Our trips covered all waters from Lachine to Carillon. Even the youngest campers went on overnight canoe trips, accompanied by, and under the close supervision of their Section Directors. The three war canoes were in great demand by all three sections of the camp, and many friendly arguments ensued as to whose turn was next!

As tripping depends so much on good weather, which we had this summer, it is hard to say whether or not the camp should invest in more of these large canoes. Certainly we could have used twice as many this summer.

INDIAN COUNCIL FIRES

The weekly meetings of the tribes in full war dress were exciting evenings for everyone. The "papoose", "braves", and "warriors", pitted their strength and skills against each other, and the rivalry was very keen among the different tribes. It was like reliving a page from the past to have canoe trips coming back to camp, having followed the same water routes of the Indians, to be greeted by the Chiefs and Warriors and receive the tribal blessing.

The atmosphere is so genuinely absorbed by the campers that it is strongly felt that steps should be taken during the winter months to obtain a large quantity of turkey feathers to enable the camp to have authentic headdresses.

PENNY FAIR

The Penny Fair was a huge success. It was held on the last Saturday of Boys' Camp, and many parents arrived to take part in it. A larger turnout could be expected next year if letters were sent informing the parents of this very worthwhile project.

HEALTH:

It was unfortunate that the camp was subjected to a ~~siege~~ of summer flu which spread rapidly through each section in spite of every precaution being taken as to cleanliness and daily disinfecting of the toilets. Unfortunately the "bug" hit the camp on Saturday, and by Sunday, visitors day, half the campers and staff were incapacitated. Several campers were taken home by their parents. By Monday the siege was over, and there was only the occasional case during the rest of the summer. We were most fortunate in having Miss Marie Todd, R.N., who handled the situation most capably. Mr. Ronald Tyres, "Chief Red Fox", Director of the Iroquois Section, deserves an honorable mention at this point for his untiring efforts in keeping both camper and camp clean.

CAMP DEVELOPMENT

Wharves We are greatly indebted to the Foreman's Club for providing the camp with the necessary funds to build eighteen interlocking wharves. This provides a 60' x 60' enclosed swimming pool.

Boats The Foreman's Club are also responsible for the five new dinghy type row boats, which have been added to the Perrot Fleet.

Stage Mr. William MacRae, "Chief Black Bear" of the Stadacona Section, greatly assisted in building the new stage in the barn, which increased the enthusiasm of the campers for dramatics each Saturday night.

Reforestation The five thousand Norwegian Spruce planted at the back of the camp property were all healthy and growing at the close of the season.

Painting The following buildings were painted this year:
The Cottage - All outside woodwork was painted.

The Dining Hall - Background was painted green with yellow trim, and the windows red. It was decided to make the above colours standard for all buildings with the exception of white for the cottage. All galleries and floors were painted grey.

Following this theme each of the three Sections had their own colour, and painted their lamps, brooms, and rakes to correspond.

Perrot Kanatas (Senior)	Yellow
Iroquois (Intermediates)	Green
Stadacona (Junior)	Red

"Parliaments" - The Parliaments were painted inside and out. The Craft Shop should be painted next year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

HEALTH: 1. Although there have not been any ill effects, the camp's drinking water is not as good as it should be. All reports from the Government's Health Department have rated it as "doubtful", even after lime was added. This matter should be investigated by experts.

2. The kitchen cesspool is inadequate as there was a large amount of overflow lying on the surface all summer. Mr. L. C. Clark recommended more tile drains, while Mr. Robillard feels that putting tile in clay does not do any good, and suggests a bed of gravel under the tile.

3. The cesspool for the hospital's new toilet is in a similar condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONT'D

KITCHEN: An immersion heater for the hot water tank in the kitchen would partially solve the problem of an overheated kitchen in the summer.

Larger counters are needed for the dish washing section of the kitchen as the present set up is a "bottle neck."

A potato peeler would simplify kitchen work.

TENTS: The present tent platforms measure 12' x 14' which is the same size as the tents. Thus no allowance is made for shrinkage. In future all platforms should be made $11\frac{1}{2}$ x $13\frac{1}{2}$ '. Similarly the tie rails should be made at least two feet longer so that the corners of the tents can be pulled out to cover the corners of the platforms.

All tents should be 12' x 14' x 4', 10 oz. canvas, with extra gromets inserted on the walls just below the ropes so that the sides may be rolled up.

The wind plays havoc with the tents at Perrot. At least six were almost completely destroyed by wind this year. The only answer is a more rapid replacement of old canvas along with smaller platforms which will allow the flaps to be tied closed during storms.

PROPERTY ADDITION: It is strongly recommended that further efforts be made to obtain the property to the east of the camp. This would be the first step in the direction of having the whole camp below the highway, and thus eliminate the danger of campers crossing the road.

STAFF: A great deal of valuable program time was lost by both the staff and counsellors trying to keep pace with general repairs before and during the camp season. A handyman is needed for at least a month before camp opens, as well as during the camp season.

The need for a Senior Section Director was also strongly felt this summer.

IN CLOSING I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of Camp Perrot this summer.

The Foreman's Club of Montreal for their generous contribution.

All members of the Advance and Rear Guard for their many hours of painting and tree planting.

The Staff and Counsellors of boys' and girls' camp,

The Camp Board of Management,

The Staff of the Montreal Y.M.C.A.,

Miss Vera Rutherford of the Camp Office in Montreal,

Roy D. Locke, Executive Secretary of Boys' Camps,

A. Ross Seaman, Past Director of Camp Perrot, and

Miss Jean Snyder, Business Manager, for their help.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Cochrane.

CAMP STAFF

Boys' Camp

D. Cochrane	Director
R. Kneeland	Crafts Director
W. MacRae	Stadacona Section Director
R. Tyres	Iroquois Section
Miss M. Todd	Nurse
Miss J. Snyder	Business Manager
J. Surridge	Chef
W. Efimchuk	Assistant Chef

Counsellors

Bob Stevens	Waterfront
John Winmill	Perrot Kanata Section
Peter Olshefsky	
Ross Bradley	
Eric Oke	Iroquois Section
Nick Zalany	
Neil Dyson	
Jack MacFarland	
Gordy Smith	
Peter Bondy (C.I.T.)	
Sterling Mair	Stadacona Section
Clarke Leverette	
Ed Kenwood	
Ted Howard	
John Elvers	
John Smarzik	
Ed Bordash	
Ian Roberts (C.I.T.)	

STATISTICS

Camper Weeks

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Boys	358	588	635	584	589
Girls	<u>178</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>203</u>
	536	777	828	787	792

Number of Individual Campers

Boys	223	199	177	205
Girls	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>103</u>
	323	299	282	308

NUMBER OF CAMPERS FOR EACH WEEK OF CAMP

<u>WEEKS</u>	<u>1952</u>
June 25 to July 2	95
July 2 to July 9	99
July 9 to July 16	102
July 16 to July 23	97
July 23 to July 30	99
July 30 to Aug. 6	97
Aug. 7 to Aug. 14	103
Aug. 14 to Aug. 21	<u>100</u>
	792
Average Stay per camper	2.2 weeks.

CAMP PERROT GIRLS' CAMP REPORT - 1952

Camp Perrot Girls' Camp was held from August 7th to 21st. This was the ninth summer during which girls have camped at Perrot. Each year sees more of the campers of previous years returning, and bringing with them songs and ideas that they have enjoyed at camp, and at the same time adding new ideas and zest. These two weeks mean much to the girls who look forward to camp all year.

STAFF:

To greet these campers on arrival this year was a keen group of staff and counsellors. We were fortunate in having a staff who were mature and experienced in camp work.

COUNSELLORS

The counsellor group was fairly young having three fifteen year olds and the others sixteen and seventeen. However they were all keen to learn, and the one day of training before the campers arrived was of great value to them. Previous to that they had received mimeographed material on the camp program, ideas, etc. It should be mentioned here how difficult it is to get both staff and counsellors for a camp session of such a short term and as late in the summer as Perrot. We are grateful to the various Y.M.C.A. Branches for their help in this matter.

HEALTH

Health during girls' camp was excellent. Much credit goes to the capable camp nurse who kept an ever watchful eye on the girls.

PROGRAM

Girls' camp is divided into three sections according to age as follows, Pioneers, ten years and under, Coureurs de Bois, eleven and twelve years, Voyageurs, who are teen agers.

Emphasis was placed on tent and sectional program, each group carrying out ideas suitable to their own age group. These ideas for the most part came from the campers. Each tent had a "little Chief" who met with their Section Director and discussed the ideas from each tent group. However, there were a number of all camp program items that everyone enjoyed and took part in, and to which the girls always looked forward. These ideas again came from the campers and counsellors who organized and carried them out under staff supervision. These events included opening and closing camp fires, a fair, amateur night, International Day and Christmas. This year Christmas Eve was introduced and added a lovely opening to the Christmas program. It started with a Candle Light Vesper Service, and after "lights out" the counsellors went caroling through the camp.

Vesper Services this year were held instead of the morning assembly that had proved not too successful in the past. Chapel Services took place each Sunday with campers taking an active part.

HANDICRAFT

Leatherwork and shellcraft were introduced to the girls this year. Other crafts were clay modelling, painting, small handicrafts, and plaster molding. Leatherwork was greatly enjoyed by the older girls who showed their appreciation by making a beautiful key case for Mr. J. E. Millen.

WATERFRONT

The new swimming area was a boon to our waterfront program. At the end of camp there were only nine girls who had not attained their swimming cord, and even these few red corders were making progress. Twenty-one girls passed Red Cross Swimming Tests this year and received certificates.

CANOEING

Although we enjoyed fine sunny weather, the wind was continually blowing so that it was impossible to take out more than one canoe trip. However, the Voyageurs particularly got out on overnight hikes.

OVERNIGHT HIKES

Nine groups went out on overnight hikes and some girls slept out behind the barn at the overnight camp site. Our difficulty is to find suitable overnight hike spots.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommendations for girls' camp.

1. That a shelter be erected over the water taps, or that a wash house be built, this wash house might include a shower.

2. Provision be made in the budget to provide a fully qualified handicraft instructor. This person should have no responsibilities outside of this field in order that campers may work at handicrafts outside of regularly scheduled periods. This is the only way that all campers may participate during the short time they are there.

3. That a record player be purchased as part of camp equipment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONT'D

4. That a portable organ be purchased for use in Chapel and Vesper Services. This would be an asset in boy and girl's camp.
5. It is recommended that all campers (girls) should have a medical examination within two days of leaving for camp. It is felt that this would add much to the health and welfare of the campers.
6. It has previously been recommended that a Womens' Committee be formed to give active assistance to girls' camp. It is recommended that this Committee be formed at an early date.

CONCLUSION

In closing I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Camp Staff and Counsellors who worked so well this last summer; also to Mrs. D. Cochrane and Mrs. R. Kneeland for their voluntary help with Leathercraft. The co-operation and help of the Director, Mr. Cochrane, was much appreciated by the Girls' Staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Seaman,
Girls' Camp Director.